

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00155 201419Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01

/080 W

----- 023564

R 170800Z MAR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 842

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PIINT, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VIEW OF KURDISH PROBLEM

REF: BAGHDAD 136, 141, 144

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ABDEL MONEIM AL-NAGGAR CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST FOR OVER ONE HOUR ON MARCH 16. HE HAD KURDISH PROBLEM VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND.

2. NAGGAR SAID HIS EMBASSY WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH IRAQI KURDISH LEADERSHIP. LEADERS COULD BE ROUGHLY DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS: "RIGHTISTS", WHO OPPOSE ACCEPTANCE OF BAATH AUTONOMY LAW AND WISH TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE UNTIL KURDISH STATE ENCOMPASSING KURDS OF IRAN, TURKEY AND SYRIA CAN BE BROUGHT INTO BEING; "MODERATES", WHO MAINLY DETRIBALIZED KURDS BEST REPRESENTED BY KURDISH MINISTERS SERVING IN GOVT AND AT-TAAXHI EDITOR DARA TAWFIQ. THEY ARE REALISTIC KURDISH NATIONALISTS AND FAVOR ACCEPTANCE OF AUTONOMY LAW AND WORKING WITHIN IRAQ TO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00155 201419Z

IMPROVE ECONOMIC LOT OF KURDS AND PROMOTE CULTURAL

AUTONOMY. THEY SAY THAT IF THEY CAN ACHIEVE THESE GOALS IN IRAQ OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS, IRAN AND TURKEY WILL HAVE TO GRANT SOME CONCESSIONS TO THEIR KURDS. THIRD GROUP IS "LEFTISTS" REPRESENTED BY JALAL TALBANI AND AZIZ AQRAWI WHO HAVE AGAIN SPLIT WITH BARZANI, PRESUMABLY HAVING BEEN BOUGHT OFF BY GOI. THEY REPRESENT MAINLY THEMSELVES.

3. NAGGAR SAID THAT "RIGHTISTS" ARE MAINLY PESHMERGA

AND TRIBAL LEADERS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON BARZANI HAS BEEN PREDOMINANT UNTIL NOW. REASON THAT DARA AT-TAWFIQ AND OTHER KIRDISH LEADERS HAVE LEFT BAGHDAD IS NOT TO ESCAPE BAATH REPRISALS (THEIR FAMILIES ARE STILL HERE) BUT TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE BARZANI TO ACCEPT AUTONOMY LAW BY DEADLINE OF MARCH 26. NAGGAR SAID REGIME IS OFFERING SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND HONORS TO BARZANI AS KURDISH LEADER IF HE ACCEPTS. THESE WOULD, HOWEVER, END WITH BARZANI'S DEATH AND NOT BE INHERITED BY SUCCESSOR.

4. NAGGAR SAID HE CONSIDERS AIMS OF "RIGHTISTS" COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC. HE SAID THEY HAD REQUESTED EGYPTIAN SUPPORT AND HE HAD TOLD THEM THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT GO BEYOND HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR KURDS, SINCE IT WOULD DISRUPT ARAB UNITY AND REGIONAL STABILITY, AND ENCOURAGE OTHER MINORITY MOVEMENTS WITHIN ARAB WORLD. NAGGAR STRONGLY IMPLIED KURDISH "RIGHTISTS" HAD GOTTEN SAME RESPONSE FROM ALL OTHER ARAB AMBASSADORS.

5. NAGGAR BELIEVES IRAN IS ONLY EXTERNAL SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE TO KURDS AND THAT IF IRAN WOULD CLOSE OFF BORDER AS TURKEY HAD DONE, IRAQI KURDISH PROBLEM WOULD BE MANAGEABLE. FURTHERMORE, NAGGAR BELIEVES IRAQ IS SERIOUS ABOUT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH IRAN. HE SAID EGYPT IS ENCOURAGING IRAQ TO ADOPT ARAB POLICY IN GULF RATHER THAN BAATHIST POLICY WHICH BRINGS IT INTO CONFLICT WITH IRAN. NAGGAR IS ENCOURAGED BY RESPONSE AND CITED IRAQI AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN GULF POLLUTION CONFERENCE WITH IRAN. HE IS ALSO ENCOURAGED BY GENERAL TREND OF EVENTS IN IRAQ, PARTICULARLY REGIME'S CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MAJOR ACCORDS WITH FRANCE AND JAPANN, RESUMPTION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00155 201419Z

OF RELATIONS WITH FRG AND EXPECTATION OF EARLY RESUMPTION WITH UK.

6. COMMENT: WHILE NAGGAR DID NOT SAY SO, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT HE BELIEVES USG HAS SOME CAPABILITY TO INFLUENCE IRAQ AND BELIEVES WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO RESOLVE IRAQI KRDISH PROBLEM IN INTEREST OF LONG RANGE REGIONAL STABILITY AS WELL AS SHORTER TERM EGYPTIAN

AND ARAB
INTERESTS. LOWRIE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SELFGOVERNMENT, MINORITIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BAGHDA00155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740058-0921
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740337/aaaabieg.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BAGHDAD 136, 141, 144
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN VIEW OF KURDISH PROBLEM
TAGS: PINT, IZ, IR, BAATH PARTY, KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005